the last three years, year-wise and State-wise;

(b) whether State Governments are not properly implementing the Consumer Protection Act;

(c) whether complaints have been received in this regard; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government and action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) This Ministry complies such a information on quarterly basis. Based on the information available with Central Government, a statement has been prepared and is annexed. [*See* Appendix 174 Annexure No. 2]

(b) At present, 31 State Commissions and 457 District Fora are functioning in the States/UTs. In addition, one State Commission and two Divisional Fora are functioning in the State of Jammu & Kashmir. All the State Governments and UT Administrations have been advised to monitor regularly pending cases in consumer courts.

(c) to (d) Some of the State Government had requested to give financial assistance to strengthen the infrastructure of there consumer courts. The Government has agreed to release financial assistance of Rs. 61 crore in four instalments to the State Governments to strengthen the infrastructure of these courts.

M.Ps' Local Area Development Scheme in Bihar

35. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been difference of opinion amongst the M.Ps.' and the District Collectors in Bihar about the schemes in the MPs' Local Area Development Scheme;

(b) if so, what are the details of such districts and the nature of schemes; and

(c) what is being done to find out solution to these problems?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG): (a) Only one case of difference of opinion between the Member of Parliament Smt. Rita Verma, MP, Dhanbad and the District Development Commissioner came to the notice of the Department of Programme Implementation from Bihar.

(b) and (c) The matter is under consideration of the Privileges Committee of Parliament.

UNICEF'S Report about Child Labour in India

36. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: DR. BAPU KALDATE:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to the Progress of the Nations Report, 1995 prepared by the UNICEF, in India between 5% to 30% of the children under the age of 16 are engaged in child labour; and

(b) the steps proposed to be taken to rehabilitate them?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) UNICEF in their progress of the Nations Report, 1995 have observed that between 5% and 30% of children under the age of 16 are estimated to fall under the definition of child labour.

According to 1981 Census, 4.26% of children in the country are working children.

(b) National Child Labour Policy, 1987 has three action plans to rehabilitate child labour i.e. (i) a legislative action plan; (ii) focussing of general development programmes for benefiting children wherever possible; and (iii) project-based